



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

R3 Regional Office

333 Broadway SE  
Albuquerque, NM 87102  
FAX (505) 842-3800  
V/TTY (505) 842-3292

File Code: 3420  
Route To:

Date: July 2, 2004

Subject: Clear Creek Campground Hazard Tree Survey

To: Steve Romero, District Rangers, Cuba Ranger District

This letter summarizes the results of the hazard tree survey conducted at Clear Creek Campground. This hazard tree survey was conducted on Thursday May 13, 2004 at the request of David Allen of your staff. During this survey, David and I flagged 53 dead trees that are considered extremely hazardous. Hazard trees are either dead or have some form of defect that would cause them or portions of them to fail and cause either personal injury or property damage. All of the hazard trees flagged are in close proximity to targets such as picnic tables, parking pads, and permanent structures and could potentially cause personal injury and/or damage to personal property and permanent structures.

Most of the dead trees flagged appeared to be weathered snags killed 1, 2, or perhaps 3 years ago. Although these snags provide valuable wildlife habitat, a snag is hazardous when it threatens personal injury or could cause damage to personal property or structures if it failed.

When a tree dies, decay organisms begin weakening tree structure. Deterioration occurs most rapidly in the butt portion and root system where moist conditions favor decay. The majority of recently killed conifers without root rot can remain in a structurally sound condition for perhaps 2-3 years, after which they begin to fail. Although the majority of failures occur when winds exceed 50 mph, dead trees may fail under any wind condition or in the absence of wind when the roots are sufficiently weakened. If a dead tree is in a high hazard zone, it should be removed. If the tree, for some reason can't be removed, the potential target(s) should be moved. If the targets can't be moved, the site should be closed and signed.

In the case of Clear Creek Campground, which is closed for rehabilitation, I strongly recommend that the site not be opened to the public until all of the hazardous trees identified are cut down.

If you have any question concerning this hazard tree survey, please contact me at (505) 842-3287 or at [trogers@fs.fed.us](mailto:trogers@fs.fed.us).

/s/ Terrence J. Rogers  
TERRENCE J. ROGERS  
Entomologist, Forest Health, New Mexico Zone

cc: Joan Hellen, Ruth Doyle, Debra Allen-Reid, Leonard Lucero, David L Allen

